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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
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Date of Deposit: July 28, 2003

Applicant(s): A. KITAMI et al

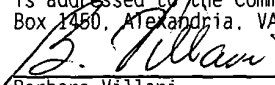
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Art Unit :
Examiner :

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Barbara Villani

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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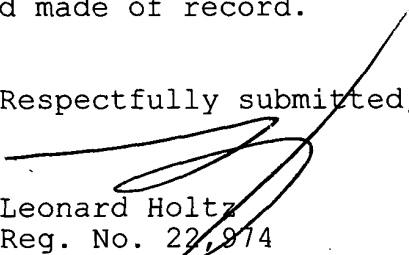
S I R :

Submitted herewith are copies of the publications identified on the attached Patent Office form PTO/SB/08A.

The publications are identified on pages 7-9 of the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the publications submitted herewith be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz
Reg. No. 22,974

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101
LH:bv

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number		
				Filing Date		Herewith
				First Named Inventor		KITAMI
				Group Art Unit		
				Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		03433/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	offc ¹	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		JP	55-139271	A	SAKAE ET AL	10-30-1980		X*
		JP	9-29996	A	KOIKE ET AL	02-04-1997		X*
		JP	10-081012	A	KITAHARA	03-31-1998		X*
		JP	11-300966	A	SUZUKI	11-02-1999		X*
		JP	2000-094669	A	TANAKA ET AL	04-04-2000		X*
		JP	2000-168103	A	KUBOTA ET AL	06-20-2000		X*
			*English abstract attached.					

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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